

U.S.-Australia relationship. These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. I continue to enjoy the interaction that frequently occurs between my Australian and American interns. This, my colleagues, is how we build diplomatic relationships which will ensure that the U.S. and Australia remain friends and allies for years to come.

For the past two months, my office has had the good fortune of hosting an amazing young woman from Australia, Anu Ambikaipalan, who is completing a double degree in law and international studies at Deakin University. Throughout the duration of Anu's tenure in my office, she has conducted herself admirably. Her willingness to learn and contribute to the legislative process through crafting legislation for the state of Florida as well as nationwide, has cemented a relationship indicative of the one the U.S. and Australia have shared for so many years. Anu has fast become an asset to my staff and we will be sorry to see her go.

Anu is participating with 11 other very qualified students. Emmanuel Rohan from the University of Queensland is in Representative MIKE CASTLE's office; Sylvia Gaston from the University of Melbourne is in Representative JAMES CLYBURN's office; Charis Tierney from the University of Queensland is in Senator MIKE CRAPO's office; Nicole Woodmansey from Griffith University is in Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD's office; Clare Ashby from the University of Melbourne in the office of Rep. PHILIP ENGLISH; Anna Keenan (University of Queensland) is in Representative SAM FARR's office; Nisha Sundaresan from Deakin University is in Senator CHUCK HAGEL's office; Megan Bainbridge from the University of Melbourne is in Representative JERROLD NADLER's office; Stuart Broadfoot from the University of Western Australia is in Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN's office; Jennifer Grant from the University of Queensland is in Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ's office; Michael Ng from the University of Melbourne is with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's majority staff.

As we move to acknowledge the seventh successful year of this program, I would like to commend the founder and director the Uni-Capitol Internship Program, Eric Federling. Eric is a former senior House and Senate staffer of more than a dozen years, who successfully combined his experience in Washington with his extensive travels and lectures throughout Australia into an ingenious program of diplomatic exchange through cultural appreciation and understanding. I heartily congratulate him on making his vision a reality. This program is the right step in the direction of supporting our young people who have a passion for and commitment to civic engagement and public service.

Over the years, my staff and I have greatly benefited from participating in this program, as I believe it continues to provide a unique and important bridge between the United States of America and Australia in many respects, especially in the arena of promoting people to people relationships that are just as key if not more than our military and economic relationships. I have said this in years past, and I will say it again: I implore my colleagues to participate in this worthwhile program when the opportunity is made available.

IN HONOR OF MS. VINNIE MALLOY,
NEW YORK DISTRICT MANAGER/
POSTMASTER, UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I, along with Mr. RANGEL and Mrs. MALONEY rise today to congratulate Ms. Vinnie Malloy on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Postal Service.

Ms. Malloy has broken many barriers throughout her career, which has been marked by excellence. From December 1998 until her retirement on February 2, 2007, Ms. Malloy served as the 37th District Manager and New York City Postmaster, the first woman to hold that distinction. In this position, Ms. Malloy was responsible for the delivery of mail and customer service for millions of residents and business customers in New York City. She managed 62 post offices, 46 stations and 15,000 employees.

Ms. Malloy joined the Postal Service in 1969, at age 21, as a Substitute Distribution Clerk in the James A. Farley Building. In the years that followed, Ms. Malloy held several positions in the Postal Service, including the historic first female Tour Director and Mail Processing Operations Manager in the New York District, as well as first female Bronx Postmaster.

Through mentoring and training, Ms. Malloy has assisted and encouraged many of her employees to seek higher level positions. She has one son and serves on the Senior Usher Board of the Cambria Heights Community Church in Queens, NY.

We are very grateful to Ms. Malloy for her assistance with the hundreds of constituent concerns we have brought to her attention over the years. We wish every government office were as responsive as Ms. Malloy and her staff have been. No matter how big or small the issue, our constituents have always been treated promptly and courteously. During her nearly 38 year career, she has been committed to the residents of Manhattan through her work in the United States Postal Service.

Ms. Malloy paved the way for other female Postal Service employees, and is an inspiration and role model for all women. For her commitment to the Postal Service and her community, it is our privilege to congratulate Vinnie Malloy on her distinguished record of excellence and achievement and upon her retirement.

FREEDOM FOR RAFAEL BENÍTEZ CHUI

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Rafael Benítez Chui, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Rafael Benítez Chui is a father of three and a peaceful pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. Mr. Benítez Chui knows with

complete certainty that Cuba must be liberated from the nightmare that is the Castro regime in order for his children and for all the children of Cuba to be able to live in freedom, with the ability to exercise their most basic human rights. Because of his belief in freedom, democracy and a better future for his children, Mr. Benítez Chui became a target for the tyrant's machinery of repression.

As a result of the dictator's condemnable March 2003 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Benítez Chui, along with his wife Migdalia Hernández Enamorado, went to a police unit in Guantánamo to protest the arrest of two of their fellow pro-democracy leaders, Manuel Ubals and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta. Unfortunately, on March 19, 2003 shortly after arriving at the police unit, dictatorship thugs arrested both Mr. Benítez Chui and his wife while they peacefully protested the unjust treatment of their fellow human rights activists.

Unfortunately, their peaceful protest was justification enough for the communist regime to incarcerate Mr. Benítez. On September 18, 2003, after 7 months confinement to a hellish existence in the totalitarian gulag, 7 months after his initial detention, Mr. Benítez Chui was finally, in a sham trial, "sentenced" to 4 years for the alleged crime of "contempt".

Since his incarceration, Mr. Benítez Chui has endured an inhuman horror in the dictatorship's gulags. In 2004, he was severely beaten by regime thugs and robbed of his few personal belongings. When Mr. Benítez Chui attempted to defend himself against the brutal assault, he was placed in a so-called "punishment cell". These "punishment cells" are usually located in the basements of prisons, with continuous dark conditions, no available water, and a hole in the ground for a toilet.

Despite nearly 4 years of brutal, life threatening conditions and continued psychological torture, Mr. Benítez Chui has never wavered in his commitment to the freedom of all the Cuban people. He has never lost his hope that one day his three children will live in a democratic Cuba free of the murderous totalitarian regime that has oppressed Cuba for almost half a century. Mr. Benítez is one of the many heroes of the Cuban pro-democracy movement who are locked up in the dungeons of the dictatorship for believing in a better life for the Cuban people, all of whom are trapped in the horror of the brutal tyranny.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Benítez Chui is representative of the best of the Cuban people, their dignity and their thirst for freedom and democracy. It is unconscionable, in the 21st century, for the world to stand by in silence while valiant men and women are caged by a demented and vile oppressor simply for peacefully expressing opinions. We must demand the immediate freedom of Mr. Benítez Chui and all the prisoners of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

PROJECT BIOSHIELD MATERIAL THREATS ACT OF 2007

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Project BioShield Material Threats Act of 2007.